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Granny tells why she spies

"I am a police spy, and I'm proud of it. I do police spy work because, as far as I'm concerned, God and country come first."

By Larry Green and Rob Warden

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She says she is a grandmother of several, lives in a changing neighborhood, loves God and hates Communists. These are the reasons, she says that she has infiltrated community and church groups and reported on their activities to police.

"I am a police spy," she declared, "and I am proud of it. I do police spy work because, as far as I'm concerned, God and country come first. If we don't have our country, we're not going to have our churches."

She said she wanted to see her story in print, but asked that her name be kept confidential because she fears violent reprisals from "revolutionists."

The fact that she is an honest-to-God police spy was simple enough to confirm, though.

She has a control number that appears on police intelligence documents obtained by The Daily News.

She knows the confidential telephone number that is used by civilian informants to turn in intelligence reports to police.

She knows the names of other civilian informants known to The Daily News.

OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS with whom she has worked, she said: "These are the greatest guys in the world. They have never asked me to do anything illegal or immoral."

Of the newspapers that have been publishing stories about police spying, she said: "You guys are so busy worrying about constitutional rights, along with the Communists, that they're going to take us over."

She said she contacted the police in the late 1960s and offered to work with them because she "saw what was happening to the country."

In her neighborhood there was a storefront legal clinic sometimes frequented by Bernadine Dohrn, then a University of Chicago law student and member of the radical

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Granny is 'proud' to be police spy

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Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

Now Bernadine Dohrn is on the FBI's most-wanted list, and the storefront is a massage parlor.

"I don't know which is worst," said the gray-haired police informant, "the revolutionists or the sex parlor."

AFTER SHE HAD WORKED WITH THE police for several months, she said, one of her control officers asked if she could recommend someone to infiltrate other groups.

"I told him I would work on it and call him back," she said. "I called him back and told him I had found someone."

She said that, in her opinion, "at least 95 per cent of the people in these organizations go in with the idea of bettering America but are duped by the Communists."

That, she contended, is why police spying is needed.

She said that she was paid small sums — usually no more than $25 a month — for the information she provided, but emphasized that the money was unimportant.

"I'm just living my religion and if I can help the police I'm sure as heck going to help the police," she said.

"I'm proud to be an American, and I'm proud to be a police spy. I don't do it for the money."